

COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

RECORD
PHILADELPHIA

3 COMPLETE
STORIES

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1940

The SPIRIT



By *Will Eisner*

THOUGH BRANDED AN OUTLAW BY THE POLICE, THE SPIRIT, IN REALITY DENNY COLT, WHO IS BELIEVED DEAD, FIGHTS CRIME AND CRIMINALS BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW.

THE SPIRIT'S REMARKABLE ABILITIES MAKE HIM A RELENTLESS Foe OF THE UNDERWORLD...



ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, WITHIN VIEW OF THE SPIRIT'S SECRET HIDEOUT, WILDWOOD CEMETERY, A TRAVELING CIRCUS PLAYS ITS GAUDY SHOW FOR A FUN-SEEKING AUDIENCE.





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THE FIRST ACT IS ON THE AUDIENCE IS CONVULSED WITH LAUGHTER



AMUSED BY A CLOWN KNOWN AS PALYACHI.



THE ACT OVER, LET US FOLLOW PALYACHI, AS HE HEADS FOR A DRESSING ROOM MARKED WITH A STAR



YES SO WHAT? TO THEM YOU ARE A STUPID LITTLE CLOWN! MAKE SOMETHING OF YOURSELF! YOU WANT TO MARRY ME?? WELL, DO SOMETHING TO PROVE YOUR LOVE!



THERE! KILL FLIPO, THE TRAPEZE ARTIST! I HATE HIM!

KILL! NO! NO!



AFRAID?? BAH! COWARD! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN! GO AHEAD! DO IT! REMEMBER, IF YOU LOVE ME

KILL? I CAN'T! I'VE NEVER HARMED A SOUL (COULD) BUT I MUST! IF I'M TO WIN HER I-I-I'M MAD ABOUT HER!



LATER THAT NIGHT...THE FINAL ACT IS ANNOUNCED

INTRODUCING FLIPO, THE AERIAL ARTIST, WHO WILL DO FOUR FLIPS IN MID-AIR!



PALYACHI!! DON'T

UNSEEN, PALYACHI'S KNIFE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR, AND A MAN IS MURDERED BEFORE THE EYES OF TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE

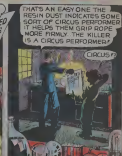
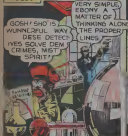
DEAD!! A KNIFE IN HIS CHEST! BUT NO ONE WAS NEAR HIM! HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?



THE DESIRE TO KILL IS NOW
STRONG WITHIN PALLYACHI!
THE CLOWN...AND
THE NEXT
NIGHT A
KILLER
CLOWN
STALKS
THE
STREETS



MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY IN
THE SPIRIT'S UNDERGROUND
HIDEOUT

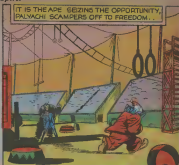








SUDDENLY A POWERFUL PAW CLOSES ABOUT THE SPIRIT'S COLLAR IN A VISE-LIKE GRIP.



IT IS THE APE SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY, PALYACHI SCAMPERS OFF TO FREEDOM...



IN A FLASH, THE SPIRIT IS OUT OF HIS COAT.



THANKS!



BOY!
YOU'RE
TOUGH!

THE APE RAISES HIS ARM AND BRINGS IT DOWN IN A MURDEROUS SWIPE. BY A HAIR'S BREADTH, THE SPIRIT ESCAPES INSTANT DEATH.



THE MONSTER STAGGERS - THE BLOWS OF THE SPIRIT AT LAST TAKE EFFECT WITH A GROAN THE APE SINKS TO THE SANDUST.



GOLLY!
THAT WAS
CLOSE!

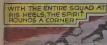
MEANWHILE, IN HER DRESSING ROOM, MARKA AWAILS THE RETURN OF THE SPIRIT.



AH! THERE
HE IS NOW
COME IN!



Y-YOU?
PALYACHI!





LADY LUCK

THE CINDERELLA MURDER CASE

3rd Days

THIS DEBUTANTE ROBIN HOOD FINDS MURDER NOT CONFINED TO GANGSTERS. HERE IS AN EXPOSE OF CRIME IN HIGH SOCIETY.

4 OO & M-FJ. WALTER MASON, MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY, STOPS IN AT JOEY'S LUNCH WAGON FOR A SNACK.



HELLO, BEAUTIFUL! ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOUR TALENTS AND LOOKS ARE WASTED IN THIS PLACE?

NOPE!

WELL, I SAY SO. I'D LIKE TO TRY A LITTLE EXPERIMENT. I'LL LAY TEN TO ONE THAT YOU'D MAKE ALL THE DEBS AT THE GRAND COSTUME BALL LOOK SICK. HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GO?



YOU'RE KIDDIN'!

NOT AT ALL! IS IT A DATE?



OH, GEE, MISTER I MUST BE DREAMIN'!



FROM DISH RAGS TO THE DIZZY HEIGHTS OF GLAMOUR THE LITTLE WAITRESS BECOMES THE BELLE OF THE BALL.



YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS!



SHE IS LOVELY!

J WALTER'S UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN!



THREE WOMEN WATCH WITH COOLY CRITICAL EYES... ONE, THE EX MRS. J.W. MASON.



TWO... SALLY MASON, HIS SISTER, WHO IS NOT SO HAPPY ABOUT HER BROTHER'S NEW DISCOVERY.



THREE THE FUTURE MRS. MASON, CYNTHIA WALES, CRITICALLY SURVEYS THE SCENE.



ANOTHER WHO WATCHES AND LISTENS IS LADY LUCK.

THEY'LL NEVER SUSPECT ME WHY, I EVEN LOANED HER MY SANDALS... BUT SHE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT! HE'S ALL MINE ALL MINE! AND NO CHEAP LITTLE UPSTART CAN CHANGE THAT! AT 12 O'CLOCK I'LL...

LADY LUCK HURRIES ACROSS THE DANCE FLOOR.



I HATE TO SPOIL YOUR FUN, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE BEFORE MIDNIGHT OR



MIDNIGHT NEARS, BUT NO ONE TAKES THE LADY SERIOUSLY.



I'VE GOT TO GET HER OUT OF HERE!



THE SHOT HITS ITS MARK. CINDERELLA CRUMBLES TO THE FLOOR.



UNNOTICED BY THE EXCITED BYSTANDERS, THE LADY SLIPS A SANDAL FROM THE SLAIN GIRL'S FOOT.



NEXT DAY, THREE WOMEN RECEIVE AN INVITATION



THE EX AND FUTURE MRS. MASON, AND SALLY ARRIVE AT BRENDA'S.....



REMEMBER THE END OF THE FAIRY TALE? THIS TIME I'M GOING TO FIT THE SLIPPER TO THE MURDERESS WHO LOANED IT TO THE WAITRESS!



WHY! I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HUMILIATED IN MY LIFE!

THAT SLIPPER IS TOO LARGE FOR ME!

WHY, I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA!



I'LL CALL THE POLICE TO WITNESS THE FITTING. HELLO GIVE ME POLICE HEADQUARTERS



BUT THE NEXT MINUTE CYNTHIA CHANGES HER MIND.



ON SECOND I THINK I'D LIKE MY ATTORNEY HERE, TOO. I'LL PICK HIM UP IN MY CAR!



JUST AS THE POLICE ARRIVE, CYNTHIA THROWS HERSELF AT LADY LUCK.



LET ME GO! LET ME GO! LET ME GO! (SAY!)



WELL, WELL THE LOVELY SCRAPPER MIXING IT WITH ONE OF HER OWN SEX THIS TIME. TSK TSK!



I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE GETS AROUND ME LIKE THAT! BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN RIGHT BEFORE!



INTO A FASHIONABLE BOUDOIR SLIPS THE FIGURE OF LADY LUCK.



THAT BIG TOE CLEARED THE FORMER MRS. MASON OF MURDER!



IN A 'BORROWED' POLICE CAR, SHE SPEEDS TO ANOTHER PART OF TOWN.

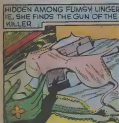


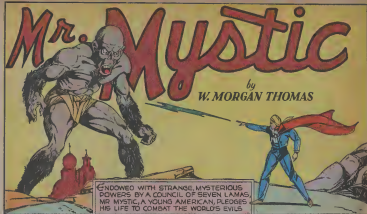
NOW, WE'LL SEE IF SISTER SALLY NEEDS A NEW PAIR OF SHOES!



NO! ONLY ONE MORE LEFT!







RETURNING TO CADIWA, MR. MYSTIC GOES TO THE PALACE OF KING BAHROUD.



MR. MYSTIC? COME IN?

HELLO, YOUR MAJESTY. I'VE COME TO TAKE ELENA TO PRISON, WHERE SHE CAN DO NO MORE HARM.



YOU KNOW, MR. MYSTIC, I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER LEAVE HER HERE. SHE'S BEEN SO HELPFUL TO ME!

ELENA HELPFUL?



OH, YES? CONFIDENTIALLY, I'M GOING TO DECLARE WAR ON SULTON BIWA, AND SHE'S GIVEN ME MANY VALUABLE TIPS!



HMM, NO DOUBT! AND I SUPPOSE IT WAS HER IDEA TO START THE WAR IN THE FIRST PLACE. WELL, WASN'T IT?



HEH HEH, WELL, YES, REALLY, SHE'S A WONDERFUL GIRL, SO DYNAMIC! SO



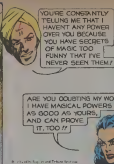
YES, AND SO TREACHEROUS THAT SHE'LL SELL ALL YOUR PLANS TO THE ENEMY!

I MUST SAY, MR. MYSTIC, YOU'RE NOT VERY COMPLIMENTARY!



YOU'RE UP TO NO GOOD, ELENA! CADIWA HAS BEEN AT PEACE FOR CENTURIES, AND NOW YOU HAVE TO START TROUBLE!





ARE YOU DOUBTING MY WORD?
I HAVE MAGICAL POWERS
AS GOOD AS YOURS,
AND CAN PROVE
IT, TOO!!





TURNING ON MR MYSTIC, IT GRINS EVILY AND REACHES FOR HIM. . . .



SNATCHING UP THE MAGICIAN, IT SLOWLY TIGHTENS ITS GRIP.



SUDDENLY IT STOPS IN AMAZEMENT AND GARGES MR MYSTIC HAS VANISHED!!



AS THE GIANT TOPPLES BACKWARD, HE CRASHES AGAINST THE WALL, CRUMBLES IT LIKE PAPER, AND FALLS INTO THE GARDEN OUTSIDE!





A QUICK GESTURE AND THE TREE BOOMERANGS AROUND, FLYING STRAIGHT FOR ITS PITCHER



JUST IN TIME, THE CREATURE DUCKS OUT OF THE WAY



ANGRILY SHAKING ITS FIST AT MR MYSTIC, IT IS UNAWARE OF THE TREE AGAIN SPINNING ABOUT AND HEADED STRAIGHT AT IT



WITH A TREMENDOUS CRASH THE GNARLED TREE CONNECTS WITH THE BASE OF THE GIANT'S SKULL



IT'S DEAD! I COMMAND IT TO MELT AND SLEEP INTO THE GROUND! THERE!



IN A SECOND, MR. MYSTIC RETURNS TO HIS NORMAL SIZE



I AM FINISHED! YOU HAVE WON!

I SHALL KEEP MY PROMISE AND CALL OFF THE WAR!



